1	2	3	4	5
Arunachal Pradesh	2.81	0.10	1.13	0.03
Nagaland	2.68	*	0.12	*
Tripura	—	—	29.54	0.53

*The activities in Changpang field awarded to ONGC in Nagaland were suspended *w.e.f.* 1994 as per State Governments directives.

Apart from the above, no Hydrocarbon reserves have been established in other North Eastern States.

(c) There are four oil refineries in Assam *viz.* Digboi, Guwahati, Bongaigaon and Numaligarh of the capacity of 0.65, 1.0, 2.35 and 3.0 MMTPA respectively.

(d) The Operations in Changpang field in Nagaland awarded to ONGC were discontinued in May 1994 due to environmental reasons as well as State Government directions. Under New Exploration Licensing Policy two new blocks have been awarded in the State of Nagaland.

Allocation of oil and natural gas exploration block

2433. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave go ahead for awarding 44 oil and gas exploration blocks with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) bagging the maximum along with its partners and first timers BHP Billiton and GVK Power;

(b) whether initiative to reduce reliance on imported energy is expected to attract 1.5 billion dollars investment; and

(c) if so, what are the other steps Government is considering to take in awarding wells to other organizations in future to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) provides for level playing field for National Oil Companies, Private and Foreign Companies and bids are invited through International Competitive bidding process. Offer of acreages under NELP is a continuous process. Government Plans to offer acreages under future rounds of NELP so as to bring 80% of Indian sedimentary basinal area under exploration by end of Eleventh Plan.

PNGRB Act 2006

2434. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Section 16 of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act 2006, has been notified;

(b) if not, under what authority has PNGRB issued bids for City Gas Distribution (CGD) in six cities;

(c) whether PNGRB proposes to authorize CGD in absence of Section 16;

(d) whether PNGRB members have delegated their powers of authorization of CGD networks and gas pipelines to Chairman of the Board;

(e) if so, under which Section of PNGRB Act;

(f) the procedure adopted to distinguish between complaints and disputes and the likely role of Chairman and members respectively in it;

(g) whether Government has notified any petroleum products under Section 11(f) of PNGRB Act; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has notified the PNGRB (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Regulations, 2008 dated 19.03.2008 under the provisions of PNGRB Act which lays down the procedure and the criteria for the grant of authorization of City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks. PNGRB has invited bids for grant of CGD in six cities under the provisions of Section 17 and 19 of the Act in accordance with the Regulations.

(d) and (e) Section 6 of the PNGRB Act, 2006 provides that the Chairperson shall have the powers of general superintendence and directions in the conduct of the affairs of the Board and shall, in addition to presiding over the meetings of the Board, exercise and discharge such other powers and functions of the Board as may be assigned to him by the Board. PNGRB has empowered the Chairperson of the Board for taking appropriate decisions on the Applications/EOIs for grant of authorization in accordance with the PNGRB (Authorising Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Regulations, 2008 and the PNGRB (Authorising Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand Natural Gas Pipelines) Regulations, 2008.

(f) The provisions for the settlement of disputes and filing of complaints are contained in Chapter V of the PNGRB Act, 2006 which provides for the constitution of a Bench consisting of the Member (Legal) and one or more members nominated by the Chairperson for the settlement of disputes. Further, Section 12 of the PNGRB Act, 2006 vests the Board with the power for adjudication upon and deciding any dispute which is defined under sub-section (1) (a) while sub-section (1) (b) defines the scope and types of complaints which can be received and decided by the Board.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. The issue of notification of Petroleum Products is a policy issue and Government would consider and decide on this matter in due course of time.

Offshore pipeline project

2435. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently held discussions with Turkish and Israeli Governments to work out the technical details of an offshore pipeline project to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the feasibility study of the proposed pipeline project have been worked out; and

(d) if so, the time by which such feasibility study is likely to be completed and likely benefit accrued to Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. India, Turkey and Israel discussed the issues relating to a pipeline project from Turkey to India through Israel in a tripartite meeting organized by Government of Turkey on 11.09.2008 in Ankara. This project is still at conceptual stage and the feasibility study of the project is yet to be worked out.

Supply of domestic gas in Jharkhand

2436. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the households having LPG connections is less than 12 per cent in Jharkhand State while average is 25 per cent in our country;

(b) if so, the action plan to increase these connections alongwith time limit set to achieve this target;

(c) the criteria for selection of cities for piped natural gas supply;

(d) whether fund has been allotted for piped natural gas for residential colonies in the cities of Jharkhand during the current financial year; and

(e) the future plan for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As on 01.12.2008, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are serving 1042.2 lakh LPG customers, covering 53.8% estimated population of the country as per 2001 Census, out of which 11.59 lakh LPG customers are being served through 143 LPG distributorships in the State of Jharkhand, covering 24.2% estimated population. OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 1340 locations in the country including 17 in the State of Jharkhand for setting up of LPG distributorships, mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations. The advertisements for all the locations have been released and selection for the same is in progress as per policy.